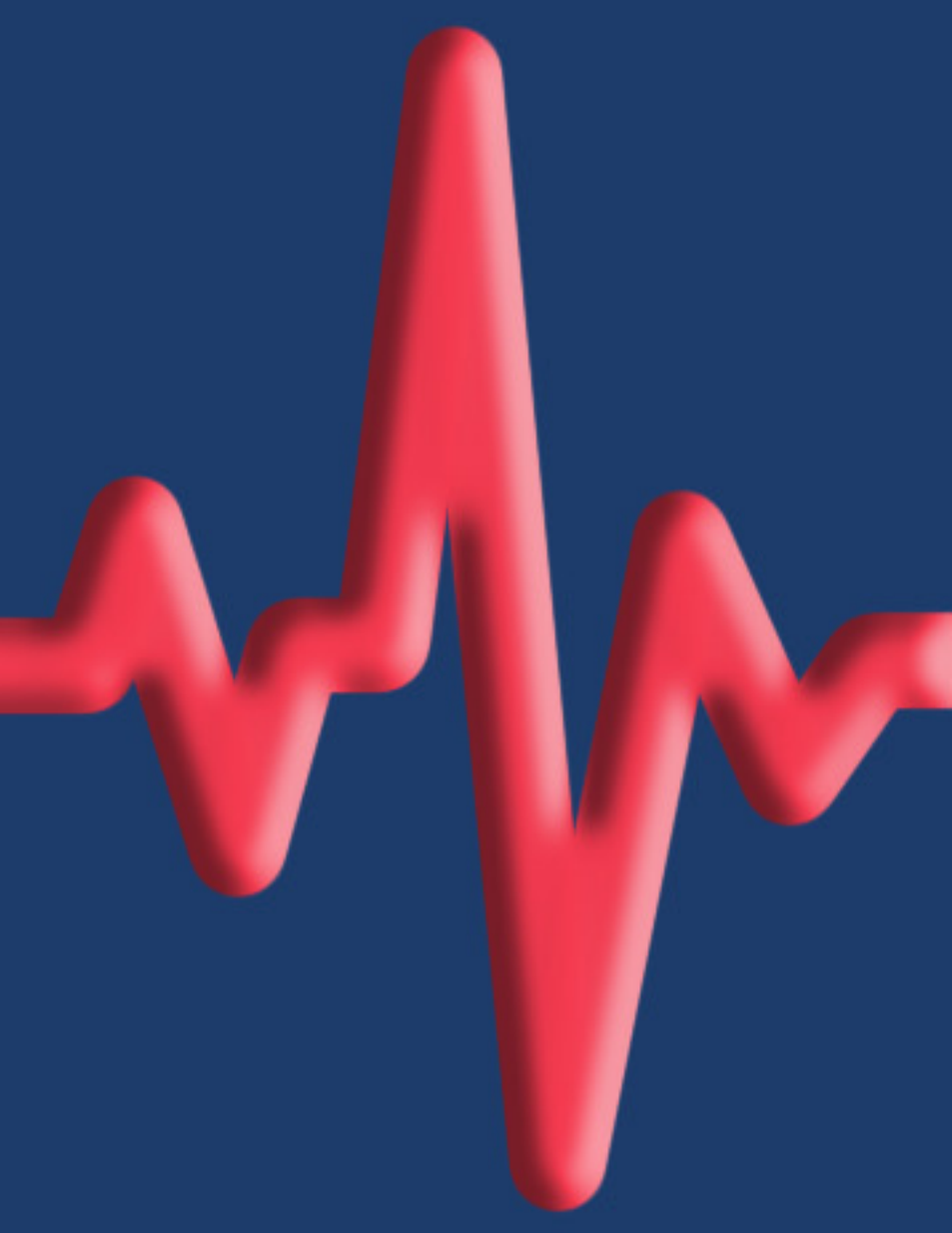




THE PULSE



Outreach Events

Altoona Curve Games:

-Tuesday, August, 16, 6:00 p.m.

-Sunday, September, 18, 1:00 p.m.

Veterans are welcome to stop by and see our team located on the first base concourse. Veteran Service Officers will be present to help connect Veterans to benefits they've earned for serving our Nation.

Photo Spotlight



Above: Commander Lloyd Peck (center), Blair County War Veterans Council, joined by MCD Sigrid Andrew (left) and Congressman John Joyce (right) cuts the ribbon on the new PACT Area



Above: Veterans line up at the eligibility tent during the enrollment fair

James E. Van Zandt VAMC Opens New Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Area

By: Evan Hinkley

The James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony on Thursday, June, 30 at their Altoona VAMC to present a newly completed Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) Area.

The PACT Area is a newly renovated, 15,000 square foot clinical area – housing Primary Care Physicians, Mental Health Providers, Dietitians, Nurses, Social Workers, and Clinical Pharmacy Specialists – all in one location. The new area is designed to allow Veterans to see all of these providers in one location – while never leaving a single exam room.

"Our new PACT Team design allows us to continue our mission of providing Veteran-centered care – by bringing six different types of care directly to our Veterans, within the same space," said Medical Center Director Sigrid Andrew. "It allows our team to continue providing personalized care for our Nation's Heroes – strengthening collaboration between our primary care team – to provide the best care to every Veteran, every day."

The \$8.6 million expansion includes 30 exam rooms – including telehealth rooms, a room specially designed to assist patients with spinal cord injuries, and two Women's Health rooms designed for female Veterans.

The project transformed a 6,500 sq. foot patient care space into 15,000 sq. foot space, more than doubling the size of our primary care area. During the last three years, the facility has grown more than 50 services, added 300 personnel, and expanded its infrastructure foot print by adding 70,000 sq. feet of additional clinical and administrative space.

VA Hosts Enrollment Fair, Enrolls More than 100 Veterans

By: Evan Hinkley

On Thursday, July, 14, the James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center hosted an Enrollment Fair at their Altoona VAMC, where more than 100 Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare.

The fair featured enrollment specialists and Veteran Service Officers who assisted Veterans with enrolling into VA for healthcare and filing service-connected disability claims. The event also included representatives from the Altoona VAMC Whole Health, Women's Health, Mental Health, and Connected Care teams. Any Veteran who enrolled during the event, received a free Altoona Curve ticket to attend a baseball game held later that day at PNG Field.

"Our mission is to ensure that all Veterans within our community receive the healthcare they earned," said Medical Director Sigrid Andrew. "With the help of our local community, we are creating a fun event that everyone in the family can enjoy, while Veterans learn how to take full advantage of the benefits they earned."

The fair featured entertainment from "Tyler's Amazing Balancing Act" and the Altoona Curve mascot "Al Tuna" who performed for Veterans at the fair and Veterans housed in the VAMC's Community Living Center. A food truck from Shuman's Concession's was present to serve fair attendees.

